

Honorable Mayor and Members
of the City Council
City Hall
Torrance, California

Members of the Council:

SUBJECT: Police and Public Works – Review of Crossing Guards Program and Proposed Modifications

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of the Chief of Police and the Public Works Director that Council Employee Relations and Public Safety provide direction to staff regarding the Crossing Guards Program proposed modifications.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

The Employee Relations and Public Safety Committee met on November 13, 2014 to discuss the Crossings Guards program. Upon completion of the meeting, the Committee made the following recommendation to the City Council:

- Direct TPD to conduct a survey of intersections, signage and traffic counts
- Explore “No Parking” zones and impact of street sweeping
- Explore coordination between TUSD and the City of the volunteer valet program
- Implement continuing education regarding driver and pedestrian safety

On November 25, 2014, the recommendations of the Employee Relations and Public Safety Committee were shared with the City Council for concurrence and further direction. The City Council concurred with the Committee’s recommendations and requested that the Traffic Commission review the Crossing Guards program and return back to the Committee for further action.

Prior to the Traffic Commission meeting of February 2, 2015, the Police Department and the Public Works Department worked together to conduct a survey of intersections, signage and traffic counts. On April 6, 2015, the Traffic Commission received the following recommendations from the Police Department and Public Works Department:

1. Continue crossing guard coverage at twenty one (21) of the current twenty nine (29) locations/posts; and
2. Relocate the remaining eight (8) crossing guard posts to new posts at crosswalks with higher school-aged pedestrian volumes or to adjacent crosswalks better suited for pedestrian crossings.

The matter was continued for one month to allow input from TUSD and parents. On May 4, 2015, the Traffic Commission discussed the staff recommendations and received public input. After much deliberation and discussion, the Commission voted to:

- Concur with the Staff Recommendation with a modification to keep the crossing guards at Palos Verdes & Carson (Post #2), Torrance & Crenshaw (Post #17), and Yukon & 182nd (Post #29).

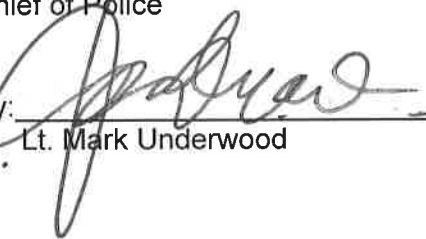
Essentially, the recommendation requests the addition of three new crossing guards for the program thereby increasing the total to 32-crossing guards;

- Return in March 2016 with a similar item with newly collected data to determine effectiveness of proposed 2015-16 school year changes as well as potential to reconsider further changes;

On May 14, 2015, the Citizen Development and Enrichment Committee held a joint meeting with members of the Torrance Unified School Board. The background information and recommendations from the Traffic Commission were shared with the joint committee members. The joint City and TUSD Committee members requested that any changes impacting schools be discussed with Principals at each school prior to implementation. Staff also shared with the joint committee, that if the Traffic Commission's recommendation were to be approved, it would require the addition of three additional Crossing Guard and perhaps additional supervision. The cost to add 3 new Crossing Guards is approximately \$42,450 (\$13,850 per guard; approximately \$300 in uniform costs per employee). Furthermore, TPD will also require assessment of supervision of the program. There is currently 1 Police Operations Supervisor in charge of the entire program. An additional \$20,000 to \$25,000 may be needed to fund a part-time Supervisor.

Respectfully submitted,

MARK A. MATSUDA
Chief of Police

By: 
For: Lt. Mark Underwood

ROB BESTE
Public Works Director

By: 
Ted Semaan,
Engineering Manager/Major Projects

- Exhibits:
- A) City Council Item 11A dated November 25, 2014
 - B) Traffic Commission Item No. 7b dated May 4, 2015, includes:
 - April 6, 2015 Item No. 7a
 - Police Department (PD) and Public Works (PW) Department – Post Summary & Recommendations dated 4/1/2015
 - Existing conditions at each school
 - C) Traffic Commission Meeting Minutes dated February 2, 2015
 - D) Traffic Commission Meeting Minutes dated April 6, 2015
 - E) Traffic Commission Meeting Minutes dated May 4, 2015 (Subject to Approval)
 - F) Community Petition regarding the intersection of Carson St. and Palos Verdes Blvd
 - G) Meeting Notes from the Joint Meeting of the City and TUSD dated May 14, 2015
 - H) PD, PW and Traffic Commission – Post Summary & Recommendations dated 5/14/2015